

should interpret these results; and, certainly, depending on where you are, you probably, maybe, come to certain different interpretations.

But some of what I heard this morning from a Democrat analyst was that this is evidence that the Democratic Party needs to double down on the big, reckless tax-and-spending bill because people who voted in Virginia and New Jersey last night didn't know what was in it, and when they find out all the good things that are in it, they are going to love this and they are going to want to support Democrats.

And I have to say I think that completely misses the point. I think what people are saying is they don't want to hand the keys to their lives to Washington, DC. This massive, reckless tax-and-spending spree that is being contemplated here by Senate Democrats is historic in its sweep, its expansion, its growth of government, its cost, its pricetag, and it is historic in terms of the amount of taxation that will be put on the backs of the American people in order to pay for it.

And I think what happened last night was a repudiation. It was repudiations of the nanny state and its belief that Washington knows best and that we should get people in this country more dependent upon Washington, DC.

I think what the American people are saying is: We don't want to be more dependent on Washington, DC. We want Washington, DC, to let us live our lives and to focus on the things that are really important to us.

And I think that the issues that were important yesterday had a lot to do with schools and kids and parents and whether or not they feel like they have control over their children's futures and what they learn in schools.

I think it had to do with the economic future that people were looking out as they envision the future for them, for their kids and their grandkids, and they are looking at how stretched their incomes now are because of this growth and inflation.

They are spending more on gasoline. They are spending more, as we head into the winter months, to heat their homes. They are spending more on food. They are spending more on housing. Literally everything in their world that they spend money on is going up, meaning their incomes are stretched thinner and thinner.

So I believe that what people were saying last night is: We don't want more Washington government and less freedom. We want less Washington government and more freedom.

And I think that resounded across the Commonwealth of Virginia and across New Jersey. And I would suggest that the takeaway for Democrats here in Washington should be not we are going to double down, we are going to spend—we are going to ram through in a partisan way this massive tax-and-spending bill; but, rather, let's pull back. Let's see what is happening out there in the economy. Let's see how it

is affecting the average American worker and the average American family and the average American small business, and perhaps head in a slightly different direction that doesn't involve taking more taxes out of our economy and increasing inflation by flooding the zone with more government spending and, therefore, creating higher and higher inflation and ultimately making things more expensive for the American people to where they look at their personal financial situation and realize how much just the cost of inflation is impacting their family budgets on a daily basis, on a weekly basis, on a monthly basis.

That, to me, should be the takeaway coming out of this because I certainly don't believe in any respect that it wasn't that the American people didn't know what is in this massive tax-and-spending bill; rather, it is that they do know. They are finding out what is in it, and they are finding out that these are a lot of—there is a whole ton of spending in here.

And, honestly, you have to be pretty darn creative to figure out how to spend \$3½ to \$4 trillion, and there is a ton of taxing that goes with it.

And there was a study that came out yesterday from Penn Wharton, which suggested that this massive and reckless tax-and-spending bill actually runs over a \$2 trillion deficit over the 10-year period.

If you look at the window, what it says is it is going to cost \$3.9 trillion. This is based on the text that is currently available. And the taxes that are proposed to be raised generate about \$1.5 trillion in revenue; therefore, a \$2.4 trillion addition to the Federal debt, which is already, as we know, at the \$30 trillion range and growing, literally, by the day.

So I would simply suggest to my colleagues here on the other side of the aisle that the message coming out of these elections is not "We want more government for the American people. We want more dependence upon Washington, DC. We want Washington, DC, to do more things for us;" but, rather, "We want Washington, DC, to get out of the way, quit trying to run our lives, and create the conditions that are favorable for economic growth and job creation and higher wages so that we can take care of our families, rather than having to depend upon Washington, DC, to do it."

I hope that this will be the resounding message we need to defeat this massive tax-and-spending bill and allow the American people the freedom they need to lead their lives and to have better opportunities for them, for their kids, and for their grandkids—and better wages.

Mr. President, I understand we have a vote coming up here, so I will yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the Harris nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Benjamin Harris, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

VOTE ON HARRIS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Harris nomination?

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 457 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Graham	Padilla
Barrasso	Grassley	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Risch
Booker	Hirono	Romney
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Burr	Inhofe	Sanders
Cantwell	Johnson	Sasse
Capito	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	Kelly	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cassidy	Leahy	Smith
Collins	Lee	Stabenow
Coons	Lujan	Tester
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Toomey
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Crapo	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wicker
Fischer	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—21

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Braun	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cruz	Marshall	Sullivan
Ernst	Moran	Tillis
Hagerty	Paul	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—1

Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Coleman nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Isobel Coleman, of New York, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

VOTE ON COLEMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Coleman nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?